



Debbie DynerHarris <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org>

Your email to Councilmember Bonin

4 messages

Debbie DynerHarris <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 28, 2016 at 12:26 PM

To:

Bcc: Mike Bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>

Hello Ms. Okulick. Thank you for your letter to Councilmember Bonin regarding the proposed Venice BID.

I have been handling this issue for the Councilmember, and I would be happy to speak with you about your questions and concerns.

Please let me know a good time to speak, and what the best number for you is.

Thank you very much,
Debbie

Is there have some time

"Dear Mike, I am a long time Venice Resident and have owned property in Venice for 35 years . I would love to meet with you to discuss the BID that is coming up for vote in August. This BID was put together in secret. I found out about only a few weeks ago. Upon reading the proposal it is clear that the people that put this plan together have not had any input from the people that will pay the tax and the community. I am respectfully asking for a delay in the vote so that there can be a dialogue with the community. Please know that the burden of paying for this needs to be a democratic process . This property tax accessment will raise my property taxes more then 40% and is a huge financial burden. I live in a residence that should not be included in the map of properties. I beg you to please reschedule the vote for a later time so that I may speak with you in person and you can meet with concerned residents. We feel our voice is not being heard, Thank you so much. Kindest regards, Marlene Okulick

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Debbie Dyner Harris
District Director
Councilmember Mike Bonin
City of Los Angeles
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Marlene Okulick

Fri, Jul 29, 2016 at 4:16 PM

To: Debbie DynersHarris <debbie.dynersHarris@lacity.org>, Marlene Okulick

Hello Debbie,

I appreciate you emailing me and wanting to discuss the BID that is being proposed for Venice. My husband John Okulick and myself have been a resident and property owner in Venice for over 35 years. We are on the corner of Sunset Ave and Hampton Drive (across the street from Google and Golds Gym)

We have been directly impacted by Google taking over Hampton Drive between Sunset and Rose Avenue. Google has done a great job in putting up tall privacy fences and security cameras surrounding their "campus". We all know to keep out. The homeless have since moved a few blocks away. What has Google given back to our community? Nothing.

Google has built a wall around themselves not looking beyond their tall fences. They need to help and participate in making Venice a safe community. They and Snap Chat received an 80% tax exemption for coming here. This is infuriating to all of us. Shouldn't they, Snap Chat and the other Tech companies pay back to the community they are taking over.

The tech companies moved to Venice because it is an iconic beach community. We do not need more banners Venice is already a huge California destination with the Venice Boardwalk and Venice Canals.

The most recent development is that the homeless have disappeared from Sunset Avenue and most of 3rd Street. It appears that someone or group have made life difficult for them. I see that many have now moved to Rose Avenue between 3rd and 4th St. This movement will continue as the homeless are forced to move out of the BID ZONE to new residential and commercial streets nearby. We need all of Venice to be protected, not just a few blocks that were chosen arbitrarily.

This BID does not solve the homeless and crime problems in Venice !!! I repeat, we pay our taxes and demand the city to provide us with the services that we so desperately need and are already paying for.

Property values have gone up over 1000% since we have lived here. Where has the additional revenue from property and business taxes gone? We do not need a private commercial security company with untrained people to harass the mentally impaired and homeless.

We take tremendous pride in our property and feel fortunate to be able own property in Venice. We saved and borrowed to be able to make this purchase 35 years ago. We keep our sidewalk clean and corner free of graffiti.

We are outraged to receive this BID proposal that is assessing our property taxes an additional \$ 5,000. a year for 5 years, with a 5 % increase every year for services that the City of LA should already provide. This is a property tax increase of over 50% is a huge financial burden for something that we do not need and do not have a say in.

There are many issues and questions in the way this secret BID was put together. There was no community input from the people being taxed and the arbitrary zones are unfair.

Why isn't Abbott Kinney Blvd, all of Rose Avenue to the beach and Lincoln Blvd included? Why isn't the entire city included? Why is the BID not Merchant Based? These are big questions that need to be addressed.

20 years ago our fabulous Congresswoman, Ruth Gallanter was instrumental in implementing an "ARTIST IN RESIDENCE" zone throughout Venice. This allowed all of the artists to live in the studio's that they worked in if you went through the exhaustive and complicated process of rezoning.

My husband, John and myself spent to a huge amount of effort, time and money rezoning our property as ARTIST IN RESIDENCE. We were required to notify all of our neighbors of this plan. There was a formal proposal and hearing. We jumped through hoops, paid thousands of dollars to the city to have the benefit of this residential zoning. Now it seems you want to get rid of all of the Artists in Residence. We should be excluded from this BID!

Police has already pushed the homeless off of the boardwalk and into residential streets. This movement will continue into new locations, outside the "ZONES" as the "Security Force" exerts their pressure. As per the proposal, 73% of the money will go towards foot security patrols and graffiti removal. This is a joke. It is clear that 73% will go towards a

private police force.

This will not solve the crime and homeless problem in Venice . We need a comprehensive social services plan for these people that desperately need help and can not speak for themselves. Policing and intimidation is not the solution.

In reality we are expected to pay for the cleaning up of the boardwalk. Why will different address's pay less and get less services? What happened to Democracy? To me this is a taxation with out the communities representation.

There needs to be new redistricting of the zoning and transparency in the process. There needs to be community discussion and input.

The new " Security Force" for Venice has the strong possibility of becoming a vigilante enforcement group. Will they have Mace and Batons to injure people for loitering on the street? How will they be trained? Won't this push the homeless on to other streets and residential neighborhoods nearby? Probably .

We are also having a hard time understanding why Google, Snap Chat and all of the large tech companies that are now renting or owning property in Venice, do they not pay the bulk of this tax.

I understand that Google received a huge 80% tax break to bring their business into our city. They have brought their workers, their traffic and their business to our special city. I do not understand why they are excluded form this BID. They can afford the pay for this as they will reap benefit.

We feel like we are being singled out and forced out of Venice so that our properties can be sold to the large tech companies moving in. We can not afford the new tax. It is a huge burden.

Another problem is that the City of LA has 25% of the vote in approving the BID . I understand that BID's are for the private property owners, not the City to ACCESS THEMSELVES, to implement special services that the City does not provide.

The city should not have a vote! The City is obligated to provide these services already. We do get our streets cleaned and trash picked up. We already pay for this.

The city's vote is based on open spaces that are public, not used by the city. I do not think that the City should have the majority vote in making this decision . The city does not have a vested interest. It is the residents of this wonderful city that do and will be affected. They all need to vote.

Please do not this letter fall on deaf ears.

Please share this letter with Mr. Bonin and everyone with the City Council.

PLEASE DELAY THIS VOTE. All residents need to vote. This BID is greatly flawed, secretive and undemocratic.

PLEASE VOTE NO!!!!!! I am happy to talk with you anytime . I can be reached at 310-890-4498

Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Marlene Okulick

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—
Marlene Okulick
Sotheby's International Realty
Pacific Palisades, CA

Marlene Okulick

To: Debbie DynerHarris <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2016 at 3:56 PM

Hi Debbie, I would love to talk with you regarding the Venice BID. I just left you a message to call me a message for you to call me home. My Cell is

I look forward to talking with you soon. .

Kindest regards, Marlene Okulick

On Thu, Jul 28, 2016 at 12:26 PM, Debbie DynerHarris <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org> wrote:

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Marlene Okulick
Sotheby's International Realty
Pacific Palisades, CA
Cell:

Debbie DynerHarris <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 3, 2016 at 5:11 PM

To: Marlene Okulick

calling now!

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